(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, steps taken to check and identify drawbacks in their functioning; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country is reviewed from time to time in the meetings of concerned Panchayati Raj Ministers and Secretaries held at the national level. A National Committee of Panchayat Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Areas and Employment has been constituted for the purpose. Several suggestions have been made to the States/UTs to streamline the functioning of Panchayati Raj system. A Southern Regional Conference of the Chairpersons of Zila Parishads at NIRD, Hyderabad was held in June, 1997, to know the working of the P.R. bodies in all the selected Southern States. More recently, the Chief Ministers' Conference was held on 2-8-1997 at New Delhi to review the working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions; where the outstanding issues like devolution of powers/functions and responsibilities upon PRIs, setting up of District Planning Committees and implementation of Reports of the State Finance Commissions and training to PRIs were discussed; and the Conference recommended to set up two Committees; (a) the Committee of the Panchayats and the Tribal Development Ministers of the eight States from the areas covered under Schedule V of the Constitution, under the Chairmanship of Minister (RA&E) to resolve difficulty if any, in enacting the State legislation expeditiously before cut off date i.e. 23rd December, 1997, and; (b) the Committee of the Chief Ministers to examine the issues regarding devolution of powers, functions and responsibilities upon the PRIs, and to recommend measures to streamline the Panchayati Raj system.

National Highways

*316. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of the National Highways, State-wise; and

(b) the length of the roads which have two lanes and four lanes in order to avoid heavy traffic, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATTRAMAN): (a) and (b) Total length of National Highway in the country, State-wise and details of 2-lane and 4-lane.

S. No.	Name of States	Total Length (in Kms.)	4 Lane (in Kms.)	2 Lane (in Kms.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888	28	2500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330	..	20
3.	Assam	2296	..	1714
4.	Bihar	2547	15	1860
5.	Chandigarh	24	8	16
6.	Delhi	72	72	..
7.	Goa	229	..	107

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Gujarat	1631	196	1342
9.	Haryana	698	77	621
10.	Himachal Pradesh	854	..	353
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	648	..	496
12.	Karnataka	1996	30	1625
13.	Kerala	940	..	432
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2946	..	2369
15.	Maharashtra	2918	21	2578
16.	Manipur	431	..	122
17.	Meghalaya	472	..	272
18.	Mizoram	551	..	5
19.	Nagaland	113	..	113
20.	Orissa	1649	3	1244
21.	Pondicherry	23	..	23
22.	Punjab	892	131	745
23.	Rajasthan	2931	19	1975
24.	Sikkim	62	..	7
25.	Tamil Nadu	1896	34	1795
26.	Tripura	200	..	29
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2733	30	2598
28.	West Bengal	1638	7	1369
	TOTAL :	34608	671	26330

Appointment of compassionate grounds

*317. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases for appointment on compassionate grounds in Western Command considered in March, 1997, and if rejected, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of cases rejected but later reconsidered and appointment given in this category and the reasons therefor;

(c) the directions issues by the Army Headquarters for appointment on compassionate grounds in regard to civilian employees; and

(d) how is the priority decided in such cases?